

BLUAC Steering Committee

February 24, 2005

Doug Averill called the meeting to order at 12:04.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes were approved as read. Averill gave a brief review of the meeting in Lakeside concerning incorporation. This meeting was led by Kenneth Weaver of Montana State University. It was noted that only 2 towns had incorporated in the past 25 years, Colstrip and Fort Peck. A sheet was passed out to those in attendance noting that the only new control would be in planning and zoning and that incorporation would raise taxes approximately 18-22%.

From the meeting in Lakeside it was noted that Bigfork and Lakeside may qualify for a resort tax which would bring in revenue without incorporation. Six communities have it and it has proven to be very successful.

Bob Keenan presented the petition form that had been used for incorporation from Colfax and Fort Peck. It was suggested that a citizen committee might go to the county to voice concerns that Flathead County assumes or wants Bigfork to incorporate.

Bob Keenan was asked if the new local option taxes were to pass in the state would there still be the flexibility to have a resort tax and he stated that it would still be possible.

Denise Lang reported on the survey, noting that Section VIII had been deleted, due to much duplication of questions which were already on the survey. Shelley Gonzales reported that Jim Jackson is going to have the survey printed on newspaper print. Discussion was held on cost differences and survey layout and making sure that the survey not be mailed on Tuesday due to the many inserts which arrive on Wednesday. Carol Venable made a motion that the surveys be sent folded. It was seconded by Denise Lang. The motion passed. Discussion was then held on the "No Opinion" column in the survey. Carol Venable made a motion, seconded by Katie Brown that the survey be sent eliminating the "No Opinion" column. Discussion followed concerning putting names of those who had attended at least 3 meetings of the Steering Committee on the cover letter so that those taking the survey would know some of the people who had been involved. Elna Darrow made the motion, seconded by Denise Lang, and passed by those in attendance at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brett Thuma made a presentation concerning the ponderosa pines which are in the northeast corner of the Ponderosa Boat Club proposal. He is hoping to see these trees protected in some form on this 7 acre area. Additionally, he will make a presentation to BLUAC at their meeting this afternoon.

Doug Averill discussed that after the survey is completed the Steering Committee could become a forum for planning and any other issues of importance to the citizens of Bigfork. Carol Venable announced that BLUAC had 3 items of interest on the agenda this afternoon.

Denise Lang presented an overview of the Milhous Group's proposal for the historic Kootenai Lodge. The

proposal includes leaving 10 buildings on the property, while leveling 13 buildings, and building 65 condos. The proposal also includes a sewer treatment facility. It was noted that for those interested, public comment is due by Monday, Feb. 28 with a Planning Board meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9 in Polson. Russ Miller said that he would like the Steering Committee to give a presentation on this proposed development.

Shelley Gonzales announced that the thank you letters for donations would be out in about 2 weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Carol Venable
Acting Secretary